

**I CLAIM:**

1. A pad-type idler for a conveyor belt, the idler comprising:  
  
a pad including a first surface and, a second surface for contacting the conveyor;  
  
a wear indicator extending from the first surface to a point adjacent the second surface, whereby, wearing of the top surface of the pad exposes the wear indicator in the second surface.
2. An idler according to claim 1, wherein the wear indicator includes a frusto-conical section adjacent the second surface.
3. An idler according to claim 1, wherein the wear indicator includes a conical system section adjacent the second surface.
4. An idler according to claim 1, wherein the wear indicator extends to the second surface.
5. An idler according to claim 1, wherein the wear indicator includes a frusto-conical section adjacent the second surface.
6. An idler according to claim 1, wherein the wear indicator includes a conical section adjacent the second surface.
7. An idler according to claim 1, wherein the wear indicator is frusto-conical.
8. An idler according to claim 1, wherein the wear indicator is conical.
9. An idler pad according to claim 1, including a plurality of wear indicators.
10. An idler pad according to claim 1, wherein the wear indicator is a bore.

11. A non-moving idler for a conveyor comprising: ✓  
a pad including a surface for contacting the conveyor;  
a wear indicator in the pad adjacent the surface whereby wearing of the surface exposes the wear indicator.
12. An idler according to claim 10, wherein the wear indicator is narrowest nearest the surface and is wider away from the surface, whereby progressive wearing of the surface exposes progressively larger sections of the wear indicator.
13. An idler according to claim 11, wherein the wear indicator is a well.
14. An idler according to claim 11, wherein the wear indicator is a circle in cross-section.